

# Claims

[c1] We claim as our invention:

1. A golf club head comprising:

a body composed of a metal material having a crown, a sole; and

a striking plate comprising a central region, a transition region and a first peripheral region, the central region having a first thickness in the range of 0.075 inch to 0.150 inch and occupying 5% to 15% of the exterior surface of a core face area, the transition region encompassing the central region and occupying 35% to 50% of the exterior surface of the core face area, the first peripheral region encompassing the transition region and occupying 40% to 55% of the exterior surface of the core face area, the first peripheral region having a second thickness less than the first thickness, the transition region having a thickness that transitions from the first thickness to the second thickness,

wherein the core face area of the striking plate has an area of at least 4.80 square inches and wherein the golf club head has a volume greater than 300 cubic centimeters.

- [c2] 2. The golf club head according to claim 1 wherein the first peripheral region has a thickness in the range of 0.040 inch to 0.110 inch.
- [c3] 3. The golf club head according to claim 1 wherein the first peripheral region has a thickness in the range of 0.075 inch to 0.100 inch.
- [c4] 4. The golf club head according to claim 1 further comprising a second peripheral region encompassing the first peripheral region and having a thickness in the range of 0.010 inch to 0.085 inch.
- [c5] 5. A metal striking plate for a golf club head, the striking plate comprising:  
a central region, a transition region, a first peripheral region and a second peripheral region, the central region having a first thickness in the range of 0.090 inch to 0.145 inch and occupying 5% to 15% of the exterior surface of a core face area, the transition region encompassing the central region and occupying 35% to 50% of the exterior surface of the core face area, the first peripheral region encompassing the transition region and occupying 40% to 55% of the exterior surface of the core face area, the first peripheral region having a second thickness less than the first thickness and in the range of 0.050 inch to 0.105 inch, the transition region having a

thickness that transitions from the first thickness to the second thickness, the second peripheral region encompassing the first peripheral region and having a third thickness in the range of 0.010 inch to 0.085 inch, wherein the core face area is in the range of 4.80 inches to 5.40 inches.

- [c6] 6. A golf club head comprising:  
a body having a crown, a sole, a heel end and a toe end;  
and  
a unitary striking plate comprising a central region, a transition region, a first peripheral region and a second peripheral region, the central region having a first thickness in the range of 0.090 inch to 0.145 inch and occupying 5% to 15% of the exterior surface of a core face area, the transition region encompassing the central region and occupying 35% to 50% of the exterior surface of the core face area, the first peripheral region encompassing the transition region and occupying 40% to 55% of the exterior surface of the core face area, the first peripheral region having a second thickness less than the first thickness and in the range of 0.050 inch to 0.105 inch, the transition region having a thickness that transitions from the first thickness to the second thickness, the second peripheral region encompassing the first peripheral region and having a third thickness in the range

of 0.045 inch to 0.080 inch.

- [c7] 7. The golf club head according to claim 6 wherein the first thickness is in the range of 0.125 inch to 0.135 inch, and the second thickness is in the range of 0.085 inch to 0.095 inch.